

Press Release Commander Navy Installations Command

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CHAPLAINS PROVIDE SPIRITUAL SUPPORT TO DISPLACED SAILORS, FAMILIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Chaplains from all services have come together to provide much needed emotional and spiritual support to service members and their families on CNI installations affected by Hurricane Katrina.

CNI chaplains are among the 65 chaplains and 49 Religious Program Specialists providing services to those in need of spiritual encouragement, counseling or a comforting word. "Chaplains create a warm place of support for people. "We provide hope as we give the displaced citizens the support they are looking for, which allows them to carry on," said Capt. Jesse Tate, CNI's claimant Chaplain. "We are working with other service members, going door-to-door and offering help, he added.

Because of the volume of people they must deal with in this kind of environment, the -more-

chaplains are frequently working with groups of people. The biggest thing these people need after this tragic event is a sense of stability and to know they aren't alone. And in some way we try to provide that stability, said Tate." We as chaplains provide an integrated response to human need."

The chaplains on the ground at these installations represent the "sacred" for these people and we are Gods representative to hurting people, according to Tate." We let them know that, with God's help and a caring community of support, tomorrows going to be a better day.

The outpouring of support has been witnessed throughout CNI installations, according to Tate. "Installations worldwide have designated September as Operation Katrina Month and will be donating their faith community designated offerings to those individuals and families already impacted by Katrina. The funds will be given to Navy Marines Corps Relief Society to be distributed out to needy families.